

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET
REGISTRATION AND SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

Appendix A

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE August 5, 1988

FULL NAME James R. Lewis
(No initials if you can possibly give full name)

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

CITY Schenectady STATE New York ZIP CODE 12304

DATE OF BIRTH 8/5/43 (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE _____ (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION Protestant (Lutheran) NATIONALITY American

OCCUPATION Engineer

EDUCATION _____

WEIGHT 290 HEIGHT 5'6" RACE CA

COLOR OF HAIR Black COLOR OF EYES Brown

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS Electronics-Photography-Videography

MARRIED OR SINGLE Single CHILDREN _____

WIFE'S NAME _____

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

<u>UNIT #</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>DATE REGISTERED</u>	<u>DATE RESIGNED</u>
007	Schenectady	NY	EA	1/87	
001	Schenectady	NY	CC	1/87	

SPECIAL RECOGNITION _____

SUSPENDED OR DENIED REGISTRATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION AND ATTACH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE OR SPECULATION):

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTED

AUG 10 1988

NOV 30 '88

F. STARON

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

Signed [Signature]
SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council Schenectady County 399

CONF020410



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

SCHENECTADY COUNTY COUNCIL, INC.

2 Union Street • Schenectady, New York 12305-1789 •

L. BEN HOMEL
Scout Executive

JAN 6, 1989

PAUL,

FOR YOUR FILE -

THIS SHOULD COMPLETE
THE INFO FROM THIS END.

Handed

Ben

JAMES R. LEWIS

REC'D 1-13-89

PEWITT

Man gets 1 to 3 for sodomy

Judge rules after tearful plea

By John Caher

Staff writer

ALBANY — A Sunday school teacher, described by his attorney as a "pillar of society," tearfully asked Supreme Court Justice Joseph Harris Tuesday to send him to prison if he thought that appropriate punishment for sodomizing a teenage boy — and the judge did.

Harris said he weighed the good deeds of James R. Lewis, an active church member and Explorer Post leader, against the devastation that results from the sexual molestation of a child before sentencing the 45-year-old Colonie man to a 1-to-3-year state prison term.

Lewis and his attorney, Arnold W. Proskin of Loudonville, both argued against a prison sentence, but the defendant wept and told the judge to incarcerate him if he thought it would serve the interests of society.

Harris, presiding over Albany County Court, said Lewis presented a "paradox" as a man who had spent virtually his entire life working for the betterment of his community, yet had "violated the moral fiber of the community" in engaging in sex with a 14-year-old boy.

"The interests of society demand that everyone know they cannot violate the law," Harris said.

Lewis, who as of Tuesday was still employed as a digital circuits specialist for the General Electric Research and Development Center in Niskayuna, was arrested last summer and charged with two counts of second-degree sodomy and single counts of third-degree sodomy, third-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child.

In a nine-page statement voluntarily given to police, Lewis said he engaged in sex with the boy from July 1986 to June 1988 and had also been involved in a sexual relationship with the youth's brother, who has since died, Assistant District Attorney Veronica Dumas said in court. Dumas said she did not know the brother's age or the circumstances surrounding his death.

Colonie police arrested Lewis after the youth's parents complained.

Lewis pleaded guilty to a single count of third-degree sodomy, a crime which is charged when a victim is too young to lawfully consent to sex but was not physically forced to engage in sexual activity. He could have been sentenced to a maximum term of 1½ to 4 years in state prison.

"What good he has done does not negate the fact that he did commit a crime," prosecutor Dumas said outside the courtroom. "The victim is a child and there was a breach of the trust that an adult owes to a child. Lewis can feel remorse, but the child is the victim."

Lewis, who lives with his parents at 2080 Central Ave., Colonie, is a 1961 graduate of Colonie Central High School, a 1963 graduate of Hudson Valley Community College in Troy and an Army veteran, according to court records. Records show that he has been a Sunday school teacher and board member at Grace Lutheran Church in Schenectady and has been active with a variety of youth organizations, including two Explorer posts.

Defense attorney Proskin portrayed Lewis, who has an otherwise clean record, as a naive man who didn't realize that his actions were wrong, but is genuinely sorry.

"He is admittedly homosexual," Proskin said. "Jim is a very naive individual. Jim Lewis has never done anything wrong in his life. A sentence of incarceration I'm not sure would do Jim Lewis or society any good."

Proskin pleaded for a "strict, severe" sentence of probation.

In a lengthy, emotional address to the court, Lewis apologized profusely, said he was in some ways more like a 12-year-old than a 45-year-old and insisted that although he had done wrong, "there was no malice in my heart whatsoever."

"If you think sending me to jail will help me or society, I suggest you do it," Lewis told Harris. "But with all my heart, I don't."

December 2, 1988

Mr. L. Ben Homel
Scout Executive
Schenectady County Council, No. 399

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: James R. Lewis

Dear Ben:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Service

eko

cc: Northeast Region

READY TO FILE
DEC 01 1988
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF020413

Colonie Man Admits He Sodomized Boy, 14

ALBANY — A 45-year-old General Electric research and development worker pleaded guilty yesterday in Albany County Court to a sodomy charge.

James R. Lewis of 2080 Central Ave., Colonie, a specialist in digital circuitry for GE's corporate Research and Development Center in Niskayuna, initially was indicted on five counts of sex abuse and sodomy. According to the district attorney's office, his plea to third-degree sodomy is in full satisfaction of that indictment.

Lewis admitted engaging in deviate sexual intercourse with a 14-year-old Colonie boy at his home during the last week of May or the first week of June.

At the time of his arrest, Lewis was accused of abusing the boy over a two-year period. Colonie police said they confiscated nine pornographic videotapes, none of which were homemade, in a search of his home.

Authorities said Lewis worked with a Schenectady-based Boy Scout Explorer Post

and a youth group of Grace Lutheran Church in Schenectady.

In another sex abuse case, 78-year-old Joseph Kafer of Caroga Lake pleaded guilty to a first-degree sexual abuse charge yesterday.

According to the district attorney's office, Kafer admitted abusing a 9-year-old Albany girl during the spring of 1984 when he was living with her family.

Also yesterday, 18-year-old John Wolcott of 84 Grant Ave. was sentenced by County Court Judge John G. Turner Jr. to one to three years in prison on a grand larceny conviction. He was convicted of possessing a 1988 Dodge pickup truck, which had been stolen in Florida, on Aug. 19 on Interstate 88.

In another case, Wayne T. Gray, 32, of 88 Edward St., Coboes, was sentenced by Turner to 60 days in jail, five years probation and a \$500 fine on his conviction for driving while intoxicated. He was arrested Aug. 3 on Interstate 87 in the town of Colonie.

WATS CALL FORM

COUNCIL #

Schenectady, NY

CALL BACK REQUESTED _____

PHONE NO:

CALLER:

Ben Homel SE

POSITION:

TYPE OF PROBLEM

REGISTRATION _____

VETERANS _____

EXPLORING _____

SCOUTING _____

BOYS' LIFE _____

UNIT #

DIST. #

EXP. DATE

TRANSMITTAL #

FILM #

*Sending news clipping on a confidential
James R. Lewis*

NAME _____

DATE

11-22-88

TIME _____

R/S-433

3/13/86-clf-567r

CONF020415



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

SCHENECTADY COUNTY COUNCIL, INC.

2 Union Street • Schenectady, New York 12305-1789 • [REDACTED]

September 12, 1988

Mr. Paul Ernst
Director
Registration Services
National Office
Boy Scouts of America

SUBJECT: JAMES R. LEWIS

Dear Paul:

Enclosed as you requested is a copy of a recent youth application which was signed by James R. Lewis. I will inform you of the outcome of the legal action as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

L. Ben Homel
Scout Executive
Schenectady County Council, No. 399

kd
Ecs.

CONF020416

EXPLORER APPLICATION

WRITE ONE LETTER IN EACH SPACE—PRESS HARD, YOU ARE MAKING THREE COPIES
SPACE BETWEEN FIRST NAME AND INITIAL

LOCAL POST/SHIP NUMBER
007

CHECK
☒ NEW EXPLORER
☐ FORMER EXPLORER

☒ MALE
☐ FEMALE

FIRST NAME AND INITIAL

LAST NAME

A T T E I S E N H O W E R

ADDRESS—STREET OR R.F.D.

DATE OF BIRTH

1 1 0 9 7 1
MONTH DAY YEAR

ADDITIONAL ADDRESS INFORMATION (if needed)

GRADE COMPLETED

9

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

S C O T T I A N Y 1 2 3 0 2 -

SCOTIA GLENVILL H.S., 10
SCHOOL AND GRADE

OCCUPATION

HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER

5-JAN-88
DATE

EMPLOYER AND BUSINESS ADDRESS

NO

PREVIOUS SCOUTING SERVICE (PARENT)

ADVISOR/SKIPPER
REGISTRATION FEE

TERM (MONTHS)

UNIT RENEWAL DATE
MONTH YEAR

\$

☐ If applicant has an unexpired membership certificate, registration may be accomplished in this unit by a payment of 50 cents for processing the transfer. Check the box and attach certificate. It will be returned by the council.

James R. Lewis
ADVISOR/SKIPPER SIGNATURE

FOR COUNCIL USE:
TRANSFER FROM

COUNCIL

NAT'L UNIT NO.

MEMBER ID NO.

August 12, 1988

Mr. L. Ben Homel
Scout Executive
Schenectady County Council, No. 399

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: JAMES R LEWIS

Dear Ben:

We really appreciate the complete file which you sent us relating to the above named individual. This is most helpful and gives us almost everything we need to refuse registration in the future.

We would like to have a document with Mr. Lewis' signature, if you have this available. This would aid in the identification process. Perhaps, you have a copy of an application or advancement report which would contain information.

The only other thing we would need is the outcome of the legal action, once this has been completed. We will then have a complete file and need no other information to substantiate our registration refusal. :

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Service

pam

cc: Northeast Region

READY TO FILE
AUG 15 1988
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF020418



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

L. BEN HOMEL
Scout Executive

SCHENECTADY COUNTY COUNCIL, INC.

2 Union Street • Schenectady, New York 12305-1789

AUG 5, 1988

DEAR PAUL,

RE: JAMES R. LEWIS

I HAVE ENCLOSED:

CONFIDENTIAL REPLY SHEET

COPY SUSPENSION LETTER

REGISTERED/REGISTER MAIL RECEIPT

NEWS CLIPPINGS (2)

INCIDENT NARRATIVE

Thanks FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

Sincerely,

Ben



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

SCHENECTADY COUNTY COUNCIL, INC.

2 Union Street • Schenectady, New York 12305-1789 • [REDACTED]

August 5, 1988

James R. Lewis
[REDACTED]

Schenectady, NY 12304

Dear Mr. Lewis:

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should be suspended. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations that you may have with Boy Scouts of America.

You should understand that BSA leadership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to suspend registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not measure up to the high standards of leadership which BSA seeks to provide for American youth. Please also understand that this decision and the reasons for it will be maintained as confidential.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed, please write to me within 60 days, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA leader should be granted or reinstated.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Buhrmaster
Council President

JRB:nlb

Enclosed: Registration fee.

CONF020420

P 925 538 664

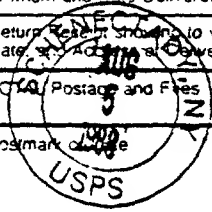
RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL

NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED
NOT FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL

(See Reverse)

Sent to	
JAMES R. LEWIS	
Street and No.	
[REDACTED]	
P.O., State and ZIP Code	
SCHENECTADY NY 12304	
Postage	\$.25
Certified Fee	.85
Special Delivery Fee	
Restricted Delivery Fee	
Return Receipt showing to whom and Date Delivered	90
Return Receipt showing to whom, Date, and Address of Delivery	
TOTAL Postage and Fees	2.00
Postmark	

PS Form 3800, June 1985



CONF020421

Man, 44, Held In Sexual Abuse Of Teen-age Boy

COLONIE — A 44-year-old man faces charges of sodomy, sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child, stemming from incidents that took place at his Colonie home during the past two years, police said.

* * *
James R. Lewis of 2080 Central Ave., near Lisha Kill Road, was arrested Tuesday night and arraigned before Town Justice Nicholas Greisler, who ordered him held at Albany County Jail without bail to await further court action, police reported yesterday afternoon.

An engineer, Lewis is a specialist in digital circuitry for General Electric's Corporate Research and Development Center on River Road in Niskayuna, police said.

Lewis allegedly sodomized and sexually abused a 15-year-old Albany County boy, whose identity is being kept confidential, police said.

The boy told his parents what allegedly happened to him and the parents called Colonie police on Monday, police said. The boy was interviewed and police got permission to search Lewis's home.

The search took place Tuesday night at 8:30. Police confiscated nine pornographic videotapes. They were not homemade tapes, police noted. Lewis was arrested following the search, said police, who were assisted by Paul DerOhannessian II, Albany County's assistant district attorney who prosecutes child and sex abuse cases.

Police are continuing the investigation.



Associated Press

SUSPECT — James R. Lewis, who is charged with sexual abuse counts in Colonie, is shown in a 1985 file photo maintaining a satellite-telephone link between Mexican Red Cross officials and the American Red Cross after the Mexico City earthquake.

Colonie man faces sex charges

Active volunteer in youth, church organizations

By Joe Mahoney

Staff writer

COLONIE — A 44-year-old electronics expert with ties to at least two youth groups is facing felony charges of sexually abusing a teenage boy over the last two years and investigators are trying to determine whether he has molested other youths, authorities said Wednesday.

The suspect, James R. Lewis, of 2080 Central Ave., was

reported the alleged abuse to police, Colonie Police juvenile unit counselor Patty Schwarz said.

Police said they executed a search warrant at Lewis' home Tuesday night and seized nine pornographic videotapes.

Lewis allegedly had deviant contact with the boy at his home and showed him the explicit sex films, police said.

Lewis was arrested by Investigator Richard Weiss, who

L. B. Homel
August 4, 1988
3:00 PM

- (1) At 11:45 Nancy called me at camp and told me Jim Lewis, EA-007, had been arrested. She has called Council President Jim Buhrmaster (Nancy could'nt reach me).
- (2) I called Ch. 10 [REDACTED], informed Ken White I was official spokesman and would call him after I learned details.
- (3) Called Sgt. Grebert (Colonie Police HDQ) [REDACTED]. Sgt. Grebert gave me details: Jim Lewis arrested, no Post Members involved. I told him we would co-operate, would interview unit.
- (4) Called Jim Buhrmaster reviewed above, he concurred.
- (5) Called Ken White - No Members involved, declined camera appearance. Gave him correct title E.A. not SM - no members involved.
- (6) Called Paul at Registration to inform him of arrest and news story - in meeting, he will call back.
- (7) Called John Auman - reviewed above -

AUG 5 - 10:20 AM

- (8) Called Paul Ernst - reviewed news story and reviewed status - incident report.
He recommended a parent's meeting and relate new leadership selection - see if parent or member comes forward with info on Jim Lewis. Fill out Confidential Record Sheet and send to BSA - issue letter of cease & desist & fees refund to Jim Lewis. Send registered mail & receipt of delivery, over JRB signature.
- (9) Called JRB & reviewed above.

WATS CALL FORM

CALL BACK REQUESTED _____

COUNCIL # 399

PHONE NO: _____

CALLER: BEN HOMEL

POSITION: S.E.

TYPE OF PROBLEM

REGISTRATION _____

VETERANS _____

EXPLORING _____

SCOUTING _____

BOYS' LIFE _____

UNIT #

DIST. #

EXP. DATE

TRANSMITTAL #

FILM #

ID # 012823

E2007

B/Y 8/43

EA

44 YRS OLD

JAMES R. LEWIS

SINGLE

15YR OLD Boy - NOT A Scout

8-4-88 NOTIFIED

SEND 2 CR SHEETS

1 MAIN STD OF PERSH BOOKLET

Sent CR sheets and booklets 1st Class

8/5/88
cm

NAME P. Enant

DATE 8-5-88

TIME _____

R/S-433
3/T3/86-clf-567r

CONF020425

*Added to
CF file*